

Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
March 26, 2003

Note: These IWMT meeting notes are provided through the courtesy of Pat Valerio.

Diana Webb announced that she is the new Policy Project Leader for the office of the "Associate Director for Operations". She also announced that the Laboratory received an "Environmental Planning Excellence Award" from the Federal Planning Division/American Planning Association. The awards lunch will be held during the annual Federal Planning conference in Denver on March 28th, 2003.

Gene Darling announced that 4 black hawk helicopters were available for fighting fires from the local National Guard Station. The Santa Fe and the Northern Pueblo hot shots begin their fire fighting duty on duty on March 24. Three single engine air tankers will be available for fire fighting and will be stationed in Taos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque. Santa Fe County has formally issued an emergency fire declaration in anticipation of the upcoming fire season.

Doug Tucker announced that Los Alamos County approved the contract for canyon mitigation work. Work to begin in May 2003. Disposing of wood chips containing bark beetles is still an unanswered question but the county is working on it.

Nicole Coons, Defensible Space Project Manager, announced that the IWMT membership needs to be consistent with advice on how to dispose of bark beetle chips and bark beetle fire wood. About 75% of the Barranca Mesa defensible space project is complete. Los Alamos home owners who are still interested in having tree thinning work done at their residence should call 661-9694 and make an appointment, time is running out.

Susan DiMauro, Davey Group spokeswoman, announced that March 26, 2003 was "Defensible Space Day" in Los Alamos County. "Ready Squirrel" and "Sparky the Fire Dog" were going to make a special appearance for the event.

Todd Haagenstad announced that he was working with the RRES division office on next years budget planning. Todd replaced Carey Bare as the Natural Resource Team Leader back in January 2003.

James Pena, San Ildefonso Pueblo, announced that San I was in the first stages of bug killed tree removal and is working with the BIA on the project. James can be reached at 455-2273.

Dale Martinez, BIA in San Ildefonso, announced that he would like to see a coordinated effort with all adjoining land owners in addressing the bug kill problem.

Elmer Torres, LANL CRO, announced that he too would like to see a coordinated effort between Federal agencies in addressing the bug kill problem.

Jim Whittington announced that there was a vacancy for a public affairs person to help with local wildfires. Contact Jim at 660-7918 for more information.

Dean Clark announced that greater participation by BIA fire personnel with the Santa Fe Fire Zone Board would help improve interagency coordination and planning and he was glad to see James and Dale in today's IWMT meeting. Due to the extensive bug kill problem, Bandelier National Monument personnel will be reviewing the need to extend their defensible space distances and reinforce fuel breaks.

Fran Talley announced that June 26, 2003 is the date for the "Safety Days" public event to be held at Fuller Lodge from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Fran also distributed the agenda for the upcoming "Wildfire 2003" public meeting to be held on April 15, 2003 at the United Church at 2525 Canyon Road, Los Alamos NM. Fran can be reached at 667-5225.

Manny Lesperance announced that due to the bug kill, the DX firing sites need to be reviewed again for fire risk safety.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, April 9, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.